

SEX DETERMINATION: swordfish

SWORDFISH *Xiphias gladius*

Female:

The most prominent characteristics of female swordfish gonads are:

- oval shape (cigar or sausage shaped)
- rough (striated) external appearance
- in a cross section, the presence of a lumen (opening) near the center

Color: variable, ranges from gray (indicating immature egg production) to orange (indicating near spawning)

Generally, swordfish and tuna over 250 pounds are female.



Figure 22. Cross section (left) and whole (right) views of female swordfish gonads. Courtesy of U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center.

Male:

The most prominent characteristics of male swordfish gonads are:

- triangular in shape (cross section), solid
- thin, elongated, and slightly compressed (smooth and flat)
- a raised center ridge

Color: white to pink



Figure 23. Cross section (left) and whole (right) views of male swordfish gonads. Courtesy of U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center.

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